

Five College LIR Council  
Minutes of the meeting of 1/8/98  
Five Colleges, Inc.

Present were Ted Belsky, Mary Egginton, Jack Glickman, Ann and Bob Grose, Anne Keppler, David Navon, Eleanor Reid, Paul Rothery, Jane Sherman, Barbara and Diedrick Snoek, George Snook, Midge White and Jackie Wisneski.

I. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 by President Bob Grose, and the minutes of the December 11th meeting were approved as reported. A question was raised about the wording of the authorization of funds for seminar materials, and the matter will be brought up for review at the next meeting.

II. Bob announced that Charlotte couldn't be present, but that no monthly Treasurer's Report could be prepared as the records from the Five College office had not arrived in time. Some delay is not unusual, which can make it difficult to determine promptly the total cost of a Special Event or even a regular activity. Bob has asked the Treasurer and the Finance Committee to meet with him and Jean Stabell in an effort to create a system of record keeping in our office.

Diedrick reported on the Memorial Fund Event, a gratifying success with an effective and gracious speaker and around one hundred attending. All felt that the occasion was appropriate for the Fund, and that contributors were pleased. An effort was made to list all members who had died since our LIR was founded, and known relatives received invitations. Bob offered congratulations and thanks to the committee.

Jack noted that Jennie Kallick had shown some copyrighted material, which could be considered a violation because the public had been invited. David Navon said that the situation is murky, according to a UMass lawyer he had consulted earlier. No decision was made as to our consulting a lawyer on this matter.

III. Evaluation of our December luncheon meeting resulted in an informal agreement that while many people enjoyed the band, it did hinder conversation. We may choose not to have music again, at least for a while. Ann Grose said that, as barmaid, she had been asked for white wine, which might be offered next time.

IV. a. *Curriculum:* Eleanor reported that there were 116 registered for the spring seminars, including 9 new members. This leaves about 35 members yet to register. The only seminar currently oversubscribed is that of the Freedmans' on Irish drama, and the only one in any doubt is the one on pastoral poetry, with only two registrants at this time. The lottery will be held on Friday, January 9th.

Karen requests clarification of the lottery for all members, as she is sometimes called upon to explain. (In this matter as in others, policy and procedure can get confused. Procedures generally are determined by committees, while policy must be set by the Council, often on proposals from committees.) The Curriculum Committee will review the lottery system, and include an explanation in the new Moderators' Handbook. Midge White is responsible for the update of the Handbook, and suggestions should be directed to her.

Seminar evaluations were thoughtful and positive, and will be useful to the committee and to moderators, to whom the evaluations are made available.

c. *Summer and Winter Programs:* Paul Rothery and Barbara Snoek have agreed to take over as co-chairs of the committee. One suggestion for the summer is a variety program, with Pat Keating as director.

d. *Special Events:* Ted reported that dates for Great Decisions have been reserved at Willitts Hollowell, and a few parking places will be reserved for us at the lower level. Tapes have been purchased from the Foreign Policy Association for sessions on "Is U.S. foreign policy for sale?" with Vincent Ferraro; "Cuba, is it time to rethink our position?" with Jono Hanke; "Africa today" with Charles Blakeney; and "China and the U.S." with Steven Goldstein. Cost to participants will be \$24 for all four sessions or \$8 for one or more single sessions; the book will be about \$12, and lunch \$9.75 for those who want to stay.

Harley reported that arrangements with Highland Valley Elder Services for the "creative aging" workshop are going forward. The total cost will be \$750, and we can expect to break even if at least thirty of our members participate at an individual fee of \$25 to \$30.

Ted asked again that moderators be urged to put in requests for special events promptly, and suggested that a note be added to material for spring moderators.

- e. *Membership:* In Ben's absence, Eleanor announced that we now have a total of 160 paid members.
- f. *Newsletter:* Jackie's deadline for the next issue is January 15th.  
*Publicity:* Mary reported that one of the newspaper notices of our spring curriculum omitted a sentence, but she expressed her appreciation for Marcia Holden's help in placing the notices.
- V. a. Bob said that Karen had taken small holiday gifts to our friends on each campus.
- b. Bob is following up with Jean Stabell about the use of University facilities. David offered to help arrange for space in Memorial Hall for our use, and possibly for parking in the University garage.
- c. Jack reported receiving 25 "summer survey" sheets, and enlisting 9 volunteers.
- d. Bob authorized the period when Smith was closed - December 24 to January 5 - as vacation time for Karen, as it would have been impossible for her to work. Because the closing may have caused problems with registration for some people, Barbara suggested an earlier general meeting next year.
- e. Three more "Conversations over Coffee" are scheduled, and Jackie asked if that committee could arrange for each one to be written up for the Newsletter. There is less need for very detailed reports on the topics planned for the spring, and Barbara says they will take care of it.
- f. Ann Grose will help Bob arrange for the Red Cross to offer a course in CPR. Barbara says that Highland Valley would like to offer a 55 Alive course, and thinks that Elder Services may pay for it. If not, it would be only about \$8 a person for four three-hour sessions over two days. Barbara will work on setting it up for mid- to late April.
- g. Bob said that goals for the second semester include work on policy and procedure, and consideration of a computer upgrade. He is working with Diedrick and Harley on the latter, and they will consult knowledgeable people on the campuses. Machines provided at low cost to students are not available to us but we should be able to get some kind of discount. We need to decide just what we require, including the possibility of importing information on our finances from Five Colleges, Inc. Diedrick emphasized that we must provide opportunities for Karen to receive appropriate training on any new equipment.
- A discussion about keeping individual records included the possibility of having information on the most popular seminar topics, the number of seminars usually taken, former members who become inactive, former members who are deceased, etc.. Would this cause us to lose the informality we enjoy now? This could be a Council decision, or referred to the membership.
- A comment that we are entering our tenth year brought up the "when does the next century start?" question, but we probably will choose to celebrate our anniversary starting in January 1999, with recognition of founding members and their skill in setting up such a group.
- Ted reported that his committee is working on plans for an overseas option for 1999. The membership will be surveyed, and a seminar planned to precede the trip.
- Mary Egginton obtained the name of a possible sound system from the Clarke School. A question was raised about requirements for all colleges to have such equipment for students, and Bob will check.

VII. The meeting was adjourned at 3:25. The next meeting will be held at Five Colleges, Inc. at 1:30 on Thursday, February 12.

Respectfully submitted,



Anne Keppler, Secretary